

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:WEDGAR:BG

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

EUR/SOV - MGARRISON

C - WSHINN

E - DWOOD

S/S-O: D. MACK

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O R 280144Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 048461

EXDIS ALGIERS FOR UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON FROM ARMITAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT, UR, US

SUBJECT: US/SOVIET OIL NEGOTIATIONS - FIFTH WEEK

1. NO PROGRESS WAS MADE ON THE MAIN OUTSTANDING ISSUES
DURING THE FIFTH WEEK OF THE OIL NEGOTIATIONS.

2. OSIPOV ASKED TO CALL ON ARMITAGE ON FEBRUARY 25, AND
FOR ALMOST TWO HOURS BOTH SIDES REITERATED THEIR
POSITIONS ON ARTICLE 3. OSIPOV SAID THAT BECAUSE THE
AGREEMENT INVOLVES A SOVIET COMMITMENT TO OFFER OIL FOR
SALE, BUT NO US COMMITMENT TO BUY, THE STATEMENT IN
ARTICLE 3 THAT BOTH SIDES EXPECT THE CONTEMPLATED VOLUME
OF TRADE TO BE ACHIEVED PLACES AN UNFAIR BURDEN ON THE
SOVIETS, WHO WILL BE THE ONES WHO WILL BE BLAMED IF THE
FULL 10 MILLION TONS ARE NOT SOLD. ARMITAGE REITERATED
THAT ARTICLE 3 HAS TO BE INCLUDED AS A MINIMUM REFLECTION
OF POINT 6 OF THE LETTER OF INTENT.

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3. ARMITAGE TOLD OSIPOV THAT WE HAVE NO SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS WITH THE SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES IN THE SIDE LETTERS THAT WILL ESTABLISH HOW THE AGREEMENT IS TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 1976, AND FOR INCLUSION OF ARTICLE 7 (OUR ORIGINAL ARTICLE 6, REGARDING NON-INTERFERENCE WITH SALES NOT COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT). ARMITAGE SAID THAT WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO AGREE TO THESE CHANGES ONCE AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON ARTICLE 3.

4. THE MARITIME DISCUSSIONS HAVE CONTINUED ON A DAILY BASIS. CLARIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN EXCHANGED, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN EITHER SIDE'S POSITION.

5. THE NEXT STEP IS A MEETING SCHEDULED AT OSIPOV'S REQUEST FOR MONDAY, MARCH 1, AT WHICH BLACKWELL AND AVERIN WILL REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE MARITIME TALKS PRIOR TO YOUR RETURN. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, SALES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE048461
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WEDGAR:BG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760075-0632
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976022/aaaaabch.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/SOVIET OIL NEGOTIATIONS - FIFTH WEEK
TAGS: EWWT, ENRG, US, UR
To: ALGIERS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006